

## ARTICLE 26: Update of Utility Assessments



Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one dollar (\$1) for the purpose of hiring a consultant to update the assessment of all public utilities in the Town of Amherst. *This is a special article in accordance with RSA 32.*

***(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee unanimously supports this Article.)***

***This article proposed to hire a firm to conduct an update of the value of our utilities with the anticipation that the assessed value will increase significantly. The Town currently uses an outdated methodology to determine the assessed value of utilities within the town. This method has calculated the value of public utilities in Amherst to be around \$22 million. This increase should more than offset the cost of the update in the first year, and would aid in redistributing the tax burden more fairly in the future. Information from our contracted assessing firm has shown that towns much smaller than Amherst have seen increases in taxes received from the utilities ranging from \$46,000 to \$150,000 a year with minimal appeals. Since this is a specialized form of assessing, our contracted assessing firm does not have the expertise to complete this update, and the function would need to be contracted out.***

***At the Deliberative Session the voters chose to include the \$32,000 originally proposed in this article in the operating budget. The article remains on the ballot with the \$1 appropriation for legal reasons on the advice of town counsel.***

**Estimated Tax Impact: None**

## ARTICLE 27: Highway Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund



Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000) to be added to the Highway Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund previously established. *(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 5-2.)*

This capital reserve fund was established by town vote in 1975 and amended in 1997 for the orderly replacement or refurbishment of highway motor vehicles. It is intended to prevent a large spike in town spending when it is time to replace highway vehicles in the Department of Public Works that are required to maintain our roads.

**Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.05 Per Thousand**

## ARTICLE 28: DPW Replacement Vehicle



Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for the purpose of purchasing a fully equipped one ton dump truck for the Department of Public Works and authorize the withdrawal from Highway Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund established for that purpose. This is a non-lapsing Special

Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.

***(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. As this article has no tax impact, the Ways and Means Committee takes no position on this article; however as individuals the majority support this article.)***

***The proposed vehicle is a one-ton dump truck which is intended to be used for winter and summer road maintenance. It is a heavy-duty four wheel drive truck (19,000 GVW) with a five speed automatic transmission and Power Stroke diesel engine, equipped with two-way radio, road watch temperature sensor, hitch-system, liquid additive system (to reduce salt needs) and commercial grade central hydraulics. The truck is intended to handle the heavy duty, commercial-type jobs for which it is needed; such as carrying road patch, raking dirt roads (after grading), transporting culvert pipe and drainages structures, as well as plowing, sanding and towing heavy loads.***

***In addition to providing the DPW with this much needed truck, the acquisition of this truck will allow other vehicles to be reassigned to other appropriate uses as well as retiring an older vehicle. The purchase of this truck is part of a scheduled fleet purchasing program intended to replace and update some of the department's older vehicles with newer, more reliable vehicles which better fit the changing needs of the DPW.***

**Estimated Tax Impact: None**